

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VS.

ZHENG DONG CHENG

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§
§

Criminal Action H-20-CR-00455

**ZHENG DONG CHENG’S 3rd SUPPLEMENT TO
MOTION FOR REVOCATION OF DETENTION ORDER**

TO THE HONORABLE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE ANDREW S. HANEN:

ZHENDONG CHENG, Defendant, (“Dr. Cheng”) supplements his *Opposed Motion for Revocation of Detention Order* and shows:

Attached is a letter from the Chairs of the Committee of Concerned Scientists in support of Dr. Cheng. *See* Ex. A.

CONCLUSION

Dr. Cheng requests the Court set this matter for a hearing, to grant the Motion, revoke the detention order, and release him upon appropriate conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,

HILDER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

/s/ Q. Tate Williams

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing instrument has been served upon the Assistant United States Attorney for the government herein, via ECF contemporaneous with filing.

/s/ Q. Tate Williams

Quentin Tate Williams



Committee of
Concerned
Scientists

April 13, 2021

Judge Andrew S. Hanen
U.S. District Court
515 Rusk Street
Houston, Texas 77006

Dear Judge Hanen:

The Committee of Concerned Scientists ("CCS") is an independent organization of scientists, physicians, engineers and scholars devoted to the protection and advancement of human rights and scientific freedom for our colleagues all over the world. For almost 50 years CCS has been helping persecuted scholars overcome injustice and return to their academic work. Over the past few years, it has come to our attention that increasing numbers of U.S. scientists who developed research collaborations with Chinese academic institutions have come under scrutiny by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Today, we are writing you to address the current situation of Dr. Zhendong Cheng. Dr. Cheng, a U.S. citizen, has been detained in Federal prison while awaiting trial for the past eight months. We have worked on several cases involving Chinese-American academics and it is incredibly rare (cannot recall a case) where the accused was retained in prison while awaiting, and during, their trial period. Most cases were similar in many ways to Dr. Cheng's, but the accused was allowed to remain at home while the proceedings were taking place. We were puzzled as to why, in this particular case, Dr. Cheng was denied bail despite the danger

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to his health from the current pandemic and its prevalence within the prison system. It is our understanding that Dr. Cheng has already contracted COVID while confined, has recovered, but has not fully regained his health.

The pretrial restrictions must be commensurate to the crime, which in the case of Dr. Cheng appears to be the alleged violation of the rules regarding disclosure of complementary sources of funding of his research. We are asking that you reconsider bail for Dr. Cheng. It is our understanding that there are concerns that he may be a flight risk but we also understand that Dr. Cheng no longer has any passport, has property that he is willing to use for collateral, is willing to wear an ankle monitor, will report regularly to pre-trial monitors, among other safety measures to assure his return to court when scheduled. There have been other similar cases and those defendants, in similar situations (including at Harvard and MIT), were freed on bond and appeared in court without flight becoming an issue.

To date, Dr. Cheng has now been confined for over eight months. This has made it difficult for he and his attorneys to work on his case, as many of the documents provided by the government are in Chinese and require his assistance in translation.



We appreciate your willingness to re-evaluate Dr. Cheng's situation and hope that pre-trial release will be available to him as soon as possible.

Very sincerely,

A row of five handwritten signatures in black ink. From left to right, they appear to be: Joel L. Lebowitz, Paul H. Plotz, Walter Reich, Eugene M. Chudnovsky, and Alexander Greer.

Joel L. Lebowitz, Paul H. Plotz, Walter Reich, Eugene M. Chudnovsky, Alexander Greer
Co-Chairs, Committee of Concerned Scientists